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COMMUNICATED.

The Dialect of Samoa, (the Navigator's Islands,) compared with the Malay. By T. Heath, Manono, Samoa.
Concluded from page 101.

THE VERB.

Mr. M. treats of the verb as primitive or derivative and transitive or intransitive. The derivative, he says, is either the primitive determined to a transitive or intransitive sense by the application of particles, or it is the verb constituted, by means of those particles, from other parts of speech. The particles used to denote the transitive are either prefixed or annexed, or both. The prefixed particles are men, meng, mem and me, being one and the same particle, varied euphonia causa, according to the letter with which the following word begins. The annexed particles are kan and i.

In Samoa the same rule applies with regard to the formation of derivative verbs, but there is apparently only a partial similarity in the formation of transitive verbs. Many verbs are transitive without any prefix or affix, whereas it would seem, although the writer is not certain, that all transitive verbs in Malay are modified as above stated. If, however, it is meant merely that verbs, which in their naked form would be intransitive, are made transitive by prefixes, then the two dialects would nearly agree. For the prefix fa'a, does in many cases answer this purpose, as mau, fast, faa-mau to fasten; nofo to sit, faa-nofo to place in a sitting posture; sala guilty, faa-sala to condemn; tiga to be in pain, faa-tiga, to give pain. Allowing, however, that the signs of the transitive have a more extensive use in the Malay, yet the examples given of the uses of mem and its varieties exactly answer to many of the uses of faa. So meng-idup-i, to bring to life, from idupan, life, just answers to faa-ola, from ola, and so of many other verbs. They respectively signify to cause, make, &c. In other Polynesian dialects the faa is expressed by faka, ha'a, aka and hoo. It corresponds with the prefix he, (h) in some of the tenses of the hiphil conjugation in Hebrew, the aleph (a) prefix in the corresponding parts of the Chaldee and Syriac.

In Malay the intransitive sense is denoted by ber, bel or be, three forms of one and the same particle, as ber-deri, to stand up. This in Samoa and other dialects has its correspondent in the affirmative particle, ua, as ua tu, stands. In both languages also these particles are prefixed to some verbs not strictly intransitive. But in Samoa some intransitive verbs have also another prefix—ma, as from tala to unloose, ua ma-tala to be unloosed.

VERB SUBSTANTIVE.

The Malay has two of these, ada to be, and jadi to become. So the Samoan has too, answering nearly to ada, and ave'a, to become. Only jadi has a more extensive use than ave'a. Ada-lah pada amba, I have, or there is to me; Samoan o loo ia te a'u, same meaning, and same idiom. In the latter it may be also expressed by the ua, ua ia te a'u. Mr. Marsden says ada, as an auxiliary is equivalent with a particle of the present tense; so it is in Samoa. Orang ada makan, Samoa, o loo

a ai tagata, the people are eating. In many Polynesian dialects it has been doubted whether there be a substantive verb. In Samoa, loo is certainly one; and when used as auxiliaries, the sa and ua appears to serve as its past tenses, and the e for its future.

DISTINCTIONS AND RELATIONS OF THE VERB.

Active and passive. In Malay the passive voice is denoted by the inseparable particle ter, prefixed. Here the two languages differ. In Samoa the prefix ua, sometimes answers to the Malay, ter; but the former has also various passive terminations, as ina, ia, tia, sia, mia.

MOODS AND TENSES.

A great part of Mr. Marsden's remarks on the moods and tenses of the Malay apply, equally, to the Samoa. In both, the imperative is expressed, sometimes without any particle, and sometimes by a prefixed particle, and is also sometimes followed by an intensive affix. Malay, duduk, sit down; with an affix, (i) pulang-kan gadei, return the pledge; with the intensive affix lah, langun lah, awake! Samoa nofo! sit down; with an affix, (ia) alu ia, go! with an intensive affix lava, (or contracted, la,) as tau mua la ia! just go straight forward! In both languages, when the pronoun of the second person accompanies the imperative, it follows the verb. In the Samoa, however, this may be reversed by using a contraction of the pronoun.

In the indicative mood there is this difference. The Samoa has often (not always) a particle (te) following the nominative personal pronoun, which the Malay has not. Malay, amba jalan, I walk. The Samoa admits a'u savali, but more frequently has o'u te savali; and so with the other personal pronouns. This does not, however, appear to be the case in several other Polynesian dialects. In Samoa the nominative persons generally precede the verb, though not so other nominatives. In Malay the precedence of the nominative appears to be a general rule. And while in Malay there is no preposition before the accusative, in Samoa there often is (i) and before proper names ia.

The conditional moods, in both languages, are generally formed by distinct words, answering to "if," &c. But the Samoa has one or two conditional particles, as such a one is coming that he may build the canoe, na te fausia le vaa. The compound particle, ina ia, has a similar force.

The optative (except when denoted by such distinct words as, I wish, &c.) is in both dialects very similar to the imperative; in Malay it has the particle de prefixed, in Samoa ia, prefixed or affixed.

I do not discover, in Malay, any particle used with the infinitive, to distinguish it from the indicative. Its position in the sentence seems to be its only distinction. In Samoa the prefix is e.

The tenses, in both languages, consisting of past, present, and future, are expressed by accompanying particles or adverbs. For present, the Malay has such forms as lagi tider, sleeping, sleeping still, the word lagi meaning still on. So the Samoa might express it, ua moe pea, the word pea meaning still; but the ua moe,

or o loo moe, sleeps, is sleeping, is more general.

The past, in Malay, is denoted by telah and corresponding words, signifying "is done." The Samoa has ua, and sa, prefixes for past time. Malay, diya telah, ber layer, he has sailed. Samoa, ia ua folau. The indefinite past time in Malay is also denoted by the prefix de, which answers to the Polynesian ua.

In both languages there is often a passive form given to a verb with an active sense, like the latin factum est a te, for tu fecisti. But many absolutely passive forms in Samoa have an active sense. In both the means of expressing a simple future are defective. In Samoa there is the prefix a for an immediate future; but generally the future is expressed by a suitable qualifying adverb, following the verb, the verb itself being in the same form as the present tense. In Malay there are used "qualifying words of independent meaning not always compatible."

DIFFERENCES IN THE VERBS OF THE TWO DIALECTS.

In the Samoan dialect, there is a class of reciprocal verbs, the particles used in whose formation appear in the following examples: alofa, to have compassion, fe-alofani, mutually to compassionate. "O," plural of alu, to go; fe-o-a'i, to interchange visits, or to go backward and forward; tautala to talk, fe-tautalatala-i, mutually to talk, to converse. The only remark observed in Mr. Marsden's Grammar, on this subject, is this: "When a reciprocity of action is meant to be expressed, the verb is repeated in the two forms, that is the simple verb without the particle denoting the transitive sense, and then the verb with that particle, as tolong menolong, to give mutual assistance.

This mention of the repetition of verbs also brings to mind that, while there is no variation in the Malay verb to denote number, in Samoa there is; first by doubling some one or two of the syllables, as savali, to walk, plural savavali, or by lengthening a syllable as (in the same word) savali. A repetition of the action is also denoted by a different duplication, as savalivali.

ADVERBS, PREPOSITIONS, &c.

As these consist of little more than lists of words, it is unnecessary to enter minutely into them. There is considerable similarity not only in the position, but in several of the words themselves. The Malay has also an interrogative particle kah? answering to the Samoa ea? as, Malay, Rajah-kah? Is it the King. Samoa (same question) O le Alii ea?

DIALECTS.

It appears that the differences in the various dialects of the Malay are almost as great as those found in the Polynesian groups. Several of them are remarkable for rejecting the terminations in and ending the word with the preceding vowel. This is worthy of further examination.

COURTLY STYLE.

In the Samoan language there are two distinct dialects. One, the common style, in which the chiefs speak of themselves, and to others, and which the common people use among themselves; the other, the courtly style, which is used by all in speaking to, or concerning, chiefs. In

some cases there are also distinct words for an intermediate class of chiefs. So scrupulously are these distinctions attended to, that it is quite an insult to speak of a chief's head or hand, or face, &c., by their common names, or to speak of his actions in the terms of the ordinary dialect. It appears from Mr. Marsden's Grammar (Introduction,) his History of Sumatra, Raffles' Java, and other authorities, that the same distinctions of vulgar, genteel, and courtly dialects prevail in the Malay and adjacent nations. Dr. Lang, in his "Origin and Migration of the Polynesian Nations," gives it as his opinion, that both the nations and languages of China and Polynesia have sprung from the same ancient and prolific source, and quotes Dr. Leyden's opinion, that, beside the Rukheng language, "There are various others which indicate rank and situation, as in Malayu, Chinese, and the monosyllabic languages in general, which have all of them paid peculiar attention to the language of ceremony in addressing superiors, inferiors and equals."

It may be interesting to prosecute the enquiry, how far, through the media of language and manners, the Malays and Polynesians can be traced to Chinese Tartary as the great officina gentium. In the mean time the affinity of the Polynesian and Malay tribes cannot admit of reasonable doubt. A much more extensive vocabulary of corresponding words, than has yet appeared, might be easily collected, especially from the dialects of the Batta, Lampong and other tribes in Sumatra and elsewhere, which have been least altered by the adoption of Hindu and Arabic terms. In the meantime, if the writer of this have succeeded in his attempt to show that there is nothing in the general structure of the languages in question to detract from their supposed affinity, his object will have been gained.

From the New York Evangelist.

AN APPEAL

From the Executive Committee of the American Temperance Union, to the King of the French in behalf of the Sandwich Islands.

TO HIS MAJESTY LOUIS PHILIPPE, KING OF THE FRENCH.

SIR:—The undersigned, constituting the Executive Officers of the American Temperance Union, an association representing and expressing the views and feelings of more than two millions of the free and enlightened citizens of the United States, beg the liberty of addressing your Majesty on a subject deeply interesting to themselves and to a portion of their fellow-beings in a far distant region of the globe.

It is too well known to your Majesty for the undersigned to enlarge upon it, that, until checked by a recent and extraordinary moral reform, the ravages of intemperance were in these States of a most distressing and alarming character:—destroying the health, industry, private peace and domestic happiness of thousands weakening the power of motives to do right, and strengthening the power of motives to do wrong; causing and annual waste to the nation of an hundred millions of dollars, and forty thousand lives, and threatening the very existence of our civil and religious institutions. Over other nations, less guarded by the restraints of civilization, they were more severe.—The had nearly exterminated the native savage of our forests, and were spreading wide desolation over the feeble tribes of men on the North-west coast of our continent, and on the warm and beautiful islands of the Southern Pacific.

We wish to assure your Majesty that it exceedingly cheered our hearts, to find that